

Francis Speaks

Serving the Needs of the Community since 1974

Serving More Than Just Pizza!

Have you heard of the “armory meals”? This is sometimes what our Evening Meal Program gets coined in the community. For over twenty years, St. Francis House has been offering the Evening Meal Program at the National Guard Armory - *just a few blocks down from our campus*. This program provides a hot meal five nights a week to anyone who comes hungry. On average, we serve approximately 55 individuals each weeknight. Towards the end of the month, we tend to see more families with small children. *Last year, we served 13,919 hot meals to our Meal Program guests and served an additional 737 meals to area farm workers.*

This program is made possible by the hands of 36 volunteer teams in the community who buy, prepare and serve the meal. The volunteer teams are made up of families, businesses, organizations and churches. Each team is given a select night of the month to serve; some having been doing it since its humble beginnings!

On a rare occasion, there might be a team that is unable to serve on their night and we look to fill their spot. It just so happens that a night opened

up last month and the St. Francis House Board of Directors jumped at the chance to serve the meal! That night they served over 70 individuals - *some very young, some senior citizens, a few families, and a few men just getting off work*. Even though the Board just served hot pizza, the guests were very grateful and appreciative of their meal. This was an eye-opening and memorable experience for our board members who haven't been able to serve in this way.



A special thanks to all of our Evening Meal Program volunteer teams who make this program possible!

CHURCH TEAMS

All Saints Catholic Church
All Saints Catholic School
Calvary Community Church
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Church of the Nazarene
Faith Covenant Church of Sumner
Faith Covenant Youth
First Presbyterian
High Pointe Church
Holy Disciples Catholic
Holy Resurrection Orthodox
Light of the Hill Methodist
Mountain View Lutheran

Pilgrim Lutheran
Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian
St. Andrew Catholic
Sumner First Christian
United Methodist Youth

BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATIONS

1st Security Bank
All Saints Knights of Columbus
Banner Bank
Bill Korum Nissan
Branks BBQ
Business Connections of Pierce County
Holy Disciples Knights of Columbus

HomeStreet Bank
Home Team NW Real Estate
Puyallup Valley Lions Club
RPD
Service First Real Estate Team
Washington State Fair

FAMILIES

Ted Brackman & Family
Betty Chipps & Family
Jeanine's Family
Mitch Austin & Family
Deanna Soltenberg & Family

A Dream Blossoms in Our Front Yard

My friends,

After long winter months of lying dormant under our grounds, the tulips and daffodils at St. Francis House have begun to blossom joyfully under Spring skies. They make me think of the story of our renovation project.

In 2008, we began talking about expanding our buildings to meet our growing needs. A capital campaign was launched early in 2009 to generate monies for what became the Welzel Wing housing our offices and the Milgard Mall with its increased storage and work space. Significant gifts from Henry Welzel and the Gary E. Milgard Foundation made both of these additions a reality by the Spring of 2011.

Fast forward to the Spring of 2017. A faithful volunteer quietly offered to pay for the entire project of renovating St. Clare House, the family home building on our property. Her generous gift put us over the top of our goal. It was as though the sun had come out and warmed the daffodils into life!

Kathy and Art Riebli, friends of our founders, Doris and Stan Michalek, had watched St. Francis House grow over the years. Kathy became one of our longest-serving volunteers. In her later years, she served as the receptionist in St. Clare House where she greeted clients, listened to their stories, and advocated for them. She knew the importance of what went on in that small building. "I want

what happens in this house to continue long after I am gone," she confided.

Kathy Riebli passed away on December 31, 2017. Her desire to leave a legacy is now being realized. With the kind generosity of Absher Construction Company and the careful guidance of Greg Helle, our renovation project will be completed by mid-May. Our new and improved space will be called The Riebli House in Kathy's honor.

In this new space, our clients will find greater privacy, our volunteers will have more efficient work areas, outside agencies will have a place from which they can more economically assist low-income clients in East Pierce County, and most importantly, our clients will be better served. Kathy and Art Riebli could not have left us a more valued gift!

Sincerely,



Sister Pat
Executive Director



"Our new and improved space will be called The Riebli House in Kathy's honor."

MEMORIAL GIFTS GRATEFULLY RECEIVED:

In memory of Lorraine Brown, June Dye, John Edwards, Don Fankhauser, Ann Fowler, Janet Green, Jim Hamre, Curtis Hulslander, Jim and Geri, Dee Leinberger, Mike Lucey, Helene Meier, Verner Norton, Thomas Quann, Pat Quann, Kathryn Riebli, Nancy Van Pevenage, Bonnie Urban, Ron Vessy, Hazel Whitney and Rich Zech.

In honor of Diana Cornforth, Marian Gerard, Dajia Hayes, Dick and Cathy Jobst, Jackie Kirsch, Lio and Dulce Lasso, Arlene Sambila, The Perrin Family and Barb Van Every.

GRANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

BNSF Railway Foundation, Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, Forest Foundation, Gary E. Milgard Family Foundation, Oscar T. and Olivann Hokold Foundation, Puyallup Kiwanis Foundation, Sisters of Saint Francis Foundation, Moccasin Lake Foundation, Muckleshoot Casino, Multicare, Tulalip Tribe and William Kilworth Foundation.

The Dream Team at St. Francis House

Terry Mattock started volunteering at St. Francis House right after retiring in 2000. His diverse skillset was put to work quickly as the “handy-man” on campus, as well as working in client registrations and in the Evening Meal Program. Within that first year, he also joined the Board of Directors. At the end of his three-year term on the Board, his wife Susan became interested in his volunteer work at St. Francis House. Shortly after she retired from the Puyallup School District in 2005, she started volunteering alongside her husband.

Together, Terry and Susan have continued in their faithful work in client registrations. They are among two of our longest standing volunteers. When they talk about their experiences over the years, it’s clear they have a deep love for the people they serve and those whom they get to serve alongside. “I’m so grateful to rub shoulders with people who are sharing their compassion with those in need,” Terry said. Susan, agreeing with Terry, adds, “I love all the volunteers and I love listening to all the client stories. We definitely receive more than we give.”



After 56 years of marriage, Terry and Susan truly enjoy being a part of this ministry together. “St. Francis House is a big part of our lives. If we weren’t here, I can’t imagine where we would be. We truly look forward to our Tuesdays and Thursdays spent at St. Francis House,” said Susan.

A sincere thanks to Terry and Susan for their faithful and dedicated service to the mission of St. Francis House. We are appreciative of their genuine spirit, kindness to all, and nurturing nature.



Easter Joy

A single mom of three children ages 2, 3 and 5 came to shop in the clothing bank for the first time at the beginning of March. As she was selecting clothing for her family, a volunteer informed her she could also get Easter baskets for her three children. A look of astonishment washed over her face. Her eyes had filled with tears as she looked at the volunteer and said, “I had no extra money this month. I wasn’t even thinking about Easter, but now the kids won’t know any different! Thank you!”

Over 55 Easter baskets were distributed to the children we serve! A huge thanks to all of our donors that make our programs possible. A special acknowledgment to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Witherspoon Family, Joyce, Dort, Phyllis, Sandy and Stephanie for their help!

Join the Olympic Challenge

Olympic Landscape (based in Puyallup) has been supporting St. Francis House since 2007. The owner, Neil Hedman, knew he wanted to help his community, but he didn't know how. After he learned about St. Francis House, he knew it was a great organization to reach those that really needed the help. "St. Francis House was the conduit of good work. It allowed me to help my community when I didn't have the time to get more involved," said Neil.

"Over time, I slowly started to get my employees involved too." In 2010, he hosted their first table at the annual Miracle Makers' Breakfast and filled the eight seats with his employees. "I wanted our business to be supportive as a group and have a presence at these events." Moving forward, Neil would discuss giving options at their staff meetings and would ask for their feedback and involvement. Then they started to contribute more during Christmastime and Thanksgiving by providing holiday meals and Christmas gifts.



The relationship St. Francis House has with Olympic Landscape is invaluable! Their company continues to be supportive through monthly business and employee contributions, sponsoring our fundraising events and getting involved with our special programs.

Are you up for the challenge?

We challenge you and your company to get more involved. There are so many ways to be of service to the community. Consider these ideas from Olympic Landscape:

- Set up an employee gift contribution program
- Sponsor one of our fundraising events
- Allow employees to volunteer a few hours a month during their work time
- Help with holiday meals during Thanksgiving and Christmas
- Host a drive for our Back-to-School Program or Christmas Program
- Host a table at our Miracle Makers' Breakfast in October

True or False?

We've heard there is some confusion around The Nook Charity Boutique - *our second-hand retail shop in Puyallup*. We hope this "True or False" test will help answer some of your questions!

- T F The Nook is the place that our clients go to shop for items they need for their home.
- T F The Nook is only opened three days a week.
- T F You can donate items directly at The Nook.

- T F The Nook is run by volunteers.
- T F You can only shop at The Nook if you are low-income.
- T F Prices at The Nook are very affordable and the selection changes weekly.
- T F Proceeds of The Nook go directly to our Clothing Bank Program.

Visit our website to check your answers at:
<http://www.puyallupfranchishouse.org/2014>

Ready For A New Job

Jessica came to St. Francis House back in October feeling a bit scared and overwhelmed. She had just been laid off of work and her family of five was now trying to live off of one income. "There's enough to pay our rent, but not much else," she told the registration volunteer. Jessica shopped that day getting some much-needed clothing for her three young children. She was even able to select Christmas gifts in December for her children.

Just a few weeks ago, we saw Jessica shopping in the clothing bank. This time there was hope in her eyes and lightness in her step. She had just received a

full-time job with Indeed and was going back to work the following week. We were able to give her a few extra clothes for her new job. "You all have helped us so much through this transition. The Christmas gifts were a huge help last year. We are so grateful for everything!" Jessica said as she embraced the volunteer with a huge hug.

Your financial gift gives people like Jessica hope. Hope for a better tomorrow. Please consider a gift today that allows us to continue to impact people's lives in our community.

Get ready for a night of Fashionable Giving, a benefit auction and fashion show unlike any other! This meaningful event will raise funds to support the important work of St. Francis House.

This year's theme "Under Construction" is sure to delight your senses as you enjoy hors d'oeuvres and desserts catered by The Vault, a popular silent and live auction, and an exciting fashion show featuring twice-loved items from our very own clothing bank!

Friday, May 18 | 6-9pm
All Saints Parish Center
506 3rd Street SW, Puyallup

Tickets are \$60 per person

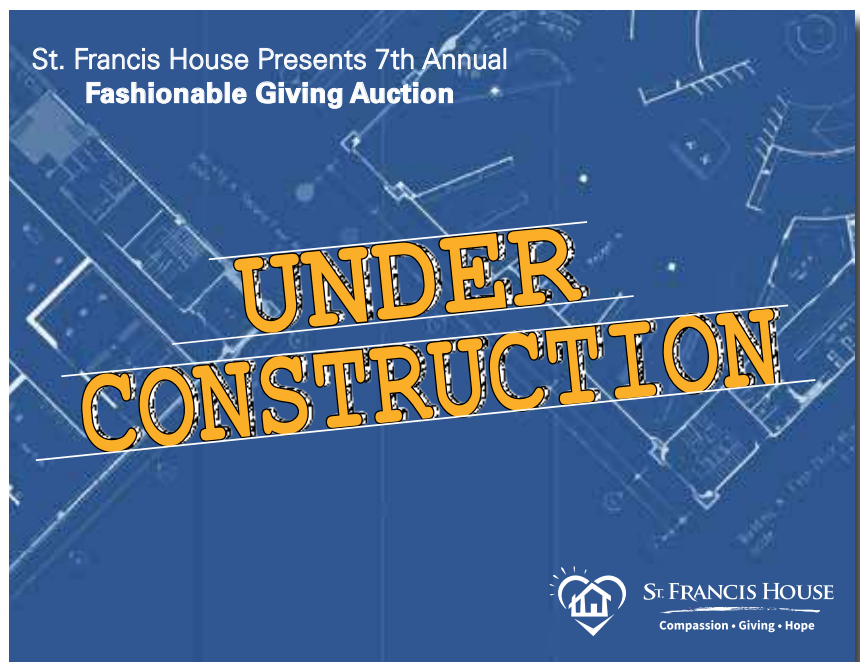
RSVP on our website or call (253) 770-6991.
You can also mail in a check for your tickets in the envelope provided.

**Special Thanks to our
Presenting Sponsors:**

[HomeStreet] Bank

KORUM
for Kids Foundation

BRADGEN
EDGEWOOD, WA



If you are unable to attend, please consider a financial gift of \$100 or more towards our programs. For your convenience, we've enclosed a remittance envelope; please make a note that your gift is for the auction.



Puyallup Valley St. Francis House
P.O. Box 156
Puyallup, WA 98371-0016

Address Service Requested

DONATION HOURS

Mon - Fri 10:00am - 5:30pm
Saturday 10:00am - 3:00pm
Sunday Closed

MONTHLY E-NEWS

Stay up to date on the activities of St. Francis House by subscribing to our monthly eNews. Sign up today by visiting our website.

FOLLOW US



OUR MISSION

We are a center of compassionate presence and service that offers hope and eases the hardships of those in need in East Pierce County. All services are provided free of charge.

PHYSICAL ADDRESS

322 7th St. SE
Puyallup, WA 98372

Clothing Bank: (253) 848-3618
Office: (253) 770-6991

www.puyallupfrancishouse.org

THE NOOK - CHARITY BOUTIQUE

1206 E Main St - Puyallup
(253) 770-6082

Thursday - Saturday:
11:00am - 5:00pm

Do You Toss or Read?

We enjoy sharing with you the wonderful things that are happening around St. Francis House. We love to share our client stories and the impact your donations make in the lives of others in our community. We try to accomplish this through our quarterly newsletter - *the one in your hands!* However, we also want to be mindful of our donors' communication preferences.

So, we want to know... how would you like to receive our newsletter? Would you like to continue receiving this newsletter in the mail or would you like an electronic version of it emailed to you?

As we continue to strive to be more

environmentally friendly and to be a good steward of your resources, we recognize that mailing our newsletter might not be the most efficient way to share our mission with you.

Please let us know what you think, by visiting our website at www.puyallupfrancishouse.org/communications and let us know your preference. We greatly appreciate your feedback!

*We want to know...
how would you like to receive
our quarterly newsletter?*